

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 are currently pending. Claims 2, 4, and 7-27 have been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Title of the invention was objected to as being non-descriptive of the claimed invention. Claims 5-8, 26, and 27 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being improper multiple-dependent claims; Claims 1-8, 13-17, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite regarding the term “character”; Claims 1-4, 13, 15-17, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0011643 to Nishihata (hereinafter “the ‘643 application”); Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘643 application in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0026483 to Isaacs et al. (hereinafter “the ‘483 application”); Claims 8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘643 application in view of Padwick et al. (“Using Microsoft Outlook 2000”) and Microsoft Outlook 2000 Screen Caps; Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘643 application in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,430,602 to Kay et al. (hereinafter “the ‘602 patent”); and Claims 5 and 6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to the Title is rendered moot by the present amendment to the Title. The Title has been amended to be more descriptive of the claimed invention and as suggested in the outstanding Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the claims under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) are rendered moot by the present amendments and/or cancellations of those claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 1-8, 13-17, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are rendered moot by the present amendment and/or cancellation of the claims. The claims have been amended to recite an “image of a character” in addition to a “character.” In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants’ specification supports the interpretation of the claimed “character” as including a meaning other than as a *textual* character such as a letter of the alphabet.¹ Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the meaning of the claimed term “character” in light of how that term is used in the claims and described in the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 7, 8, 13-17, 26, and 27 are rendered moot by the present cancellation of those claims.

Further, Applicants note that Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original Claims 3 and 5. Further, Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of Claims 1 and 6. Moreover, Claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of original Claim 2. Accordingly, based on the indicated allowability of Claims 5 and 6, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 are in condition for formal allowance.

¹ See page 3 of the specification.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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